

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR 18-50119

Plaintiff,

FACTUAL BASIS STATEMENT

vs.

RODNEY ALLEN BUETOW,

Defendant.

The defendant stipulates that the following facts are true and the parties agree they establish a factual basis for the plea in the action pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11(b)(3):

On September 7, 2018, Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) Special Agent Scott Beagle contacted South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigations Special Agent John Barnes, who also a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce (ICAC), in regards to an individual who had contacted him on the dating application Skout. SA Beagle was acting in an undercover (UC) capacity as a 14-year-old juvenile female. He informed SA Barnes that he was chatting with a male, Rodney Buetow, on this application. During this conversation, SA Beagle in his undercover persona informed Buetow that he was 14 years old two separate times and that "she" lived in Rapid City, SD. After

that, Buetow sent the following message to SA Beagle's undercover persona: "Do you want a cock in your tight little pussy?"

SA Beagle provided SA Barnes' UC phone number to Buetow in order for SA Barnes to take over the chat conversation. SA Beagle told Buetow to let SA Barnes' UC persona know it was "Rodney from Skout." During the conversation with Buetow, SA Barnes continued to act as the same 14-year-old undercover persona as SA Beagle had.

On September 7, 2018, at 3:07 PM MDT, SA Barnes received a message that stated "Hi beautiful, its Rodney from skout." Law enforcement was able to determine that the phone number was Buetow's. During the text message conversation between Buetow and SA Barnes' UC persona, Buetow informed SA Barnes that he could be "rough" if that's what the UC persona would like. He also said "no whips or chains or handcuffs". Buetow also sent SA Barnes a text message that explained that "rough" meant "long and hard, like pounding hard." He informed SA Barnes that it would take him eight hours to drive here and asked if he should get a motel room Thursday night. Buetow stated the following, "Please tell me that you are serious and this is not a set up," and then "Have you seen dateline with how to catch a predator." Bueauto said, a "show that shows young girls getting older guys to come and meet to get them arrested." He also informed SA Barnes that he would stop and get condoms from Walmart and agreed to get the morning after pill if a condom broke. SA Barnes informed Rodney two separate times that he was 14 years old. SA Barnes also informed

him to meet the UC persona at Canyon Lake School and that the UC persona lived nearby that location.

At 11:02 AM MDT, Buetow sent a text message that read, "I am leaving now." At approx. 11:09AM MDT, SA Beagle watched Buetow leave his residence in Jordan, MN. SA Beagle followed Buetow out of Jordan, MN, to Saint Peter, MN. Buetow was driving a green Dodge Caravan.

That evening at 7:20PM, Rodney sent the following message "Im (sic) at Walmart right now, are you ready." Agents arrested Buetow in the parking lot of the Timberline baseball fields in Rapid City, SD, at approx. 8:20PM. He was in close proximity to Canyon Lake School, the designated meeting place, and he was driving a green Dodge Caravan.

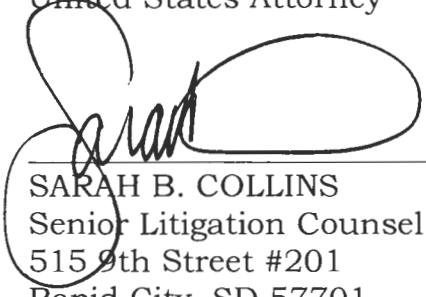
When arrested, Buetow was in possession of a three-pack of Trojan condoms, a bottle of Durex Massage and Play Gel (lubricant), and a Walmart receipt for those items. The receipt was from Walmart on N. Lacrosse Street and the time on the receipt is 19:25 or 7:25PM. Buetow was also in possession of a Motel 6 room car holder that included two room keys, and the room number 209 was written on it. Buetow was also in possession of a ZTE cell phone, which was taken to the ICAC office and placed into evidence and later forensically examined. On the phone, law enforcement located the UC chats as well as numerous images of child pornography received on the device between March and October 2018. At the time Buetow received the images, he was aware the images were of child pornography and he received them over the internet.

“Skout” is an internet website designed for people to meet one another. Individuals utilize computers and other electronic devices to meet one another on the website utilizing the internet. An internet user who is interested in meeting another user then utilizes the internet to communicate with the other user and they enter into discussions about meeting. “Skout” operates solely online and is a corporation with servers located outside of the state of South Dakota all of which was in and affecting interstate commerce.

RONALD A. PARSONS JR.
United States Attorney

5/15/19


Date



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5-14-19

Date



Rodney Allen Buetow
Defendant

5/14/18

Date



Thomas Harmon
Attorney for Defendant